




Washington State Transportation Framework Partnerships Across The State

Project Status Reports 2004 Catalog

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December 6, 2004

We have met with Bfirst Solutions Inc. to gather requirements for the WA-Trans Translator. We have provided them with most of the documents and information they need. We expect to have a first draft of requirements the week of December 6 – 10th sometime. They will change as we finalize the data model and standards. Just a few more decisions to make!!

I have hired Mark Hotz to be my Assistant Project Manager. Many of you met Mark at the last meeting. Mark is Canadian and has almost 10 years experience in GIS. He is currently seeking an advanced degree in GIS and is very interested in project management. I am excited to have him here and have already loaded him with work!

I am seeking an executive sponsor for the project in WSDOT. We have asked Paula Hammond to do this for us and it appears she will do it! Paula is the Chief of Staff and reports directly to Secretary McDonald. Many of the business areas with great interest in WA-Trans report to her so she is a logical choice.

I gave a presentation on WA-Trans to the Geographic Information Technology subcommittee (GIT) of the Information Services Board (ISB). Attendees represented the Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Health, Information Services, Local Government Representative, Military, Natural Resources, Transportation, US Geological Survey and the current chair of WAGIC (Ian Von Essen). I was able to emphasize the “enterprise” value and place of WA-Trans and begin planting seeds regarding long-term maintenance and planning for it.

I attended the national URISA conference in Reno last month. I was able to network with several people that may end up being helpful. First, I was able to speak with Carol Brandt at the USDOT Bureau of Transportation Statistics. She is their GIS Program Manager and has overseen the Geospatial One Stop for Transportation. They are beginning to do cost-benefit analysis on Geospatial One Stop and they want to partner with state DOT's and she was very interested in what we are doing with WA-Trans. Since then I have heard from Mark Bradford, who works for her and been invited to join the FGDC Business Case Action Team. I am looking into what that involves and will decide later.

I also was able to connect with GIS managers from several DOT's (Tennessee, Oklahoma, Idaho, and others) and start soliciting their interest in the pooled fund project. I have their contact information and can appeal to them directly later.

Our next meeting is January 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Spokane at the WSDOT Eastern Region HQ on 2714 N. Mayfair in the Pend Orielle Room. Video-conferencing will be available.

October 25, 2004

Things are suddenly moving at a rapid pace! It is going to require that we all keep working on moving this forward as much as possible!

First the best news! WA-Trans was awarded the USGS NSDI CAP Grant. It is for \$75,000. We wouldn't have been successful without the commitment of Jerry Harless and Puget Sound Regional Council; Linda Gurell, Chuck Buzzard and Pierce County GIS; King County Metro and Mike Berman; and Vicki Lukas, Sam Bardelson and the USGS NW Geographic Science Team! Additionally I need to thank Dave Rideout and Ian Von Essen for information about the National Map Pilot they worked with the USGS on and George Spencer who spent so much time editing my work and making sure we got registered on Grants.gov! So now the work begins. Sam and I traveled to Denver in late September where all of the recipients of this years' CAP awards met with the USGS and found out how things work. There are a couple of similar projects to ours, but none is exactly like ours. I will be working hard to get a project plan and other project initiation deliverables done in early November.

As far as the Microsoft Grant, with Bfirst Solutions Inc. is concerned, it may be rescinded. I am fighting for it but Microsoft is changing directions. I will have a report for you at the meeting. I hope to get it resolved this week. Either way Chuck and Jerry will be working with me and someone else to provide detailed requirements for the translator with in the next month.

The pooled fund project with Oregon is starting to really take shape. We have decided to solicit through the National Pooled Fund website and with GIS and Transportation Data Offices throughout the nation in Departments of Transportation. They then will work through their research offices to contribute and join. We will be asking for around \$20,000 per agency for each year to participate in the building these tools, in exchange for getting the tools and source code when the work is done. We will take less as well, but to be on the steering committee requires the higher-level contribution. This has been successful for other software development research projects. We will also be soliciting personally to these offices. Both Oregon and Washington have already committed \$30,000 so we can start with \$60,000 while we are soliciting. It can take up to a year once the solicitation begins to get enough participants to do a lot, but meanwhile you can work with what you have.

I have been working with the WSDOT Office of Information Technology to begin setting up WA-Trans as an official project, get the database design accepted and ready to be implemented in a test environment and to design the infrastructure required for WA-Trans. It appears that we may have some good fortune in our relationship with the Trip Planner project. They seem to have some

October 25, 2004

good grant money coming in and may have a federal earmark. They are willing to share their infrastructure with us and it appears they need the same things! So their project manager (Robin Phillips, WSDOT Public Transportation Office) has agreed that we should work on it together and what they buy we can use!

I have worked with Pierce County to get a copy of the applications they have built for us and I am working on getting them set up and available to me.

I gave a presentation at the WSDOT NW Region Brownbag Seminar on GIS organized by Tareq and Art. They did a fantastic job! Linda Gurell also presented. It was very good and I think, helpful for WA-Trans. Tariq had some managers there. That always helps our visibility.

I am in the process of hiring an Assistant Project Manager. I did interviews last week and should be able to let you know the results at the meeting. This position is funded through June 2005, but obviously, I am hoping we can figure out a way to fund it further.

I will be attending the National URISA Conference in November at Reno, NV. I hope to be able to find more DOTs GIS contacts for the pooled fund project there.

We have some new members of the steering committee. First, I asked Jason Guthrie of Lincoln County to replace Joe Bowles. Thankfully, he agreed and will be attending from Spokane. I have also asked Michelle Blake, the WSDOT GIS Data Steward to join us as we move toward implementing something. Michelle understands the WSDOT environment and can be very helpful. Since what we are doing is closely linked with Federal Functional Classification and the Transportation Data Office is expecting to be a primary user in WSDOT of WA-Trans Pat Whittaker has agreed to join us representing that office.

We also have two new partners. They are Whatcom County Public Works and Love GIS Consulting.

Our next meeting is December 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Olympia at the Transportation Building on Maple Park in room 2F22 (Shamen room). Video-conferencing will be available.

Tami's Status Report
Steering Committee Meeting

July 19, 2004

This has been another busy period for me! I spent over a week working on a grant application for the Department of Homeland Security Information Technology and Evaluation Program. I applied for \$469,983.52 with a match of \$158,116.58. The grant would be for integrating data from King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish and Thurston Counties and to build the translator and both front-ends. It took a significant amount of time to put this together. The WA Emergency Management Division selected three proposals to forward to DHS. They did not select ours. I spoke with Stan Ditterline, the new CIO of the WA Dept. of Military and he said that they didn't understand the value of the proposal and that they felt it was too transportation specific. I am sending it out with the USGS CAP so you can give me feedback. One thing I know is that we need a letter of support from an emergency management group of some sort! Stan did agree to go through the proposal with me in detail so I can make some corrections in the future.

The pooled fund proposal is slowly moving forward! I have heard from Liza Fox who is the project manager of the Idaho effort. I sent her information and will be speaking with her by phone soon. WSDOT has committed some money to the fund. We need to get others to as well. Leni Oman, the WSDOT Research Director has been sending the proposal to several states to solicit interest.

The work with the Traffic Records Committee also seems to have real possibility. They have identified seven goals and related strategic objectives. One of those (number 6) is to "create a more accurate statewide system for roadway feature and event location for improved analysis of traffic related events. Under this goal, strategy 2 is:

Develop a statewide transportation data layer (WA-Trans) for use in Geographic Information System (GIS) applications across the state.

- a. Develop a framework model and technical standards for a central repository, front-end, and back-end data translator applications.
- b. Draft data sharing agreements with city, county, and state providers of transportation data.
- c. Develop secure methods for users to access transportation data layer and load into local jurisdiction applications.

I have been asked to identify metrics for measuring success in this, so we will need to work on that. It appears very promising that the Traffic Records will be funded significantly in this Federal budget cycle.

I am still waiting to develop the exact scope for use of the Microsoft grant. Burt had knee surgery and had to cancel our meeting. That also puts the proof of concept off.

I attended a meeting for the Oregon T-FIT group in late June. They are extremely interested in what we are doing with identifying an architecture that will facilitate transportation framework. They are now scheduling their meetings so I can attend them and want me to actively participate in them. They had a few of things under discussion that are of interest to us:

1. They are populating their database with data from several counties. They are not doing any edge matching. They had originally decided to let the counties work that out among themselves. There was significant discussion about the ability to meet emergency management needs without connectivity. They are considering spending some money on adding new data and then using some money to work on integration as well.
2. They are concerned with their business rules for identifying nodes. They currently identify primary nodes, which are at major intersections between public roads. However sometimes a private road may join a public road or a major driveway such as to Wal-Mart or something like that will need to be illustrated. They are considering the concept of Secondary nodes for this.

Tami's Status Report
Steering Committee Meeting

July 19, 2004

Originally they were going to overload a field in the data model for this, but have decided to expand the model to include this concept.

3. They are working on an MOU with US Bureau of Census regarding creation and distribution of statewide road centerline data. It generally lays the framework for partnership. It has not been approved. This might be something we want to consider in the future.

Our next meeting is September 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Olympia at the Transportation Building on Maple Park in room 2F-22. Video-conferencing will be available.

Status as of June 28, 2004

There has been considerable activity in the WA-Trans project since my last status report. We have had a partner meeting and several steering committee meetings and we are making significant progress.

Partner Group Meetings and News

The next partner meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2004 from 9 a.m. – noon in the Transportation Building in Olympia, room 2F22. Video conferencing will be available by arrangement. At this meeting the schedule for the following year will be announced.

New Partners

The following groups have agreed to be partners:

- Snoqualmie Tribe
- Washington Traffic Records Committee

Steering Committee Meetings and News

The Steering Committee has been working on refining architecture requirements, determining core attribution and developing standards for WA-Trans. A great deal has been accomplished. More can be found in the deliverables section of this report.

Funding

The WA-Trans project is seeking funding from a variety of sources and has had some limited success thus far. Pilot projects listed under the deliverables section directly relate to these funding proposals.

- *Microsoft Grant* - WA-Trans has received a \$29,000 grant from Microsoft. This money will very likely be spent to begin development of software. There may be more opportunities for additional funding and for grants for hardware (servers) and licenses through this process. Additionally they are willing to assist with lobbying the legislature and other groups.
- *USGS Cooperative Agreement (CAP)* – We are applying for \$75,000 from the USGS. We are proposing completion of the translator and integrating data from Pierce and King County. King and Pierce Counties and Puget Sound Regional

Council have agreed to participate in this effort should be funding be received.

- *Department of Homeland Security Information Technology and Evaluation Program (ITEP)* – We applied for \$469,984 in Federal money with a state match of \$158,117. This is scoped to include King, Kitsap, Pierce Snohomish and Thurston Counties and would build the translator, a front end for data providers and a front end for data users.
- *Federal Earmark* – We have asked for money from the Federal Government to do a large pilot in the Puget Sound Region. This pilot would include Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish Counties. It would also include implementation of software for the architecture.
- *State Funding* – We are asking for money to pay for hardware and software licensing and to provide match for various other funding efforts described above.
- *Pooled Research Funding* – We are asking for funding to do two research pilots, mostly concerned with building a translator, integration software and QA/QC software.

Project Deliverables

Pilot Projects Planned

These pilots are discussed in some detail in the previous status report so this report provides a limited description of them.

Puget Sound Pilot Proposal – This proposal will be funded with a combination of USGS CAP funding, a federal earmark and state funding where provided. The scope is described above. The scope is dependant upon what funding is available.

Oregon – Washington Cross Border Pilot Proposal – This proposal relies on pooled research funding. We have developed a formal proposal for Phase I of the pilot, which includes Walla Walla and Benton Counties in Washington and Morrow and Umatilla Counties in Oregon. This phase involves development of a translator, data using front-end and some work on integration software. Phase II involves Clark and Cowlitz Counties in Washington, Columbia and Multnomah Counties in Oregon and involves completion of integration software and QA-QC software.

Additional Pilots – One additional pilot that has not yet been scoped is for jurisdictions that don't have GIS transportation data. This pilot would involve partnering with the US Bureau of Census for the TIGER/MAF Modernization Project to get a 7-meter accurate

roads and address layer for the jurisdiction and then providing software and training in exchange for data sharing commitment.

Other Project Deliverables

Standards – The steering Committee continues to work on standards. WSDOT has paid for a part time cartographer to work on development of first draft standards, which the steering committee will review and maintain. We anticipate having the first draft by mid-summer. The Steering Committee is currently working with subject matter experts for each transportation mode to determine core attribution for each mode that will become part of the standard.

Architecture – The architecture includes some high-level specifications of software tools for WA-Trans as well as defining the environment where WA-Trans will be housed. These tools include:

- Data user interface software for accessing data and metadata and providing feedback.
- Data provider interface software for those providing data to WA-Trans.
- Translation software to get data into and out of WA-Trans.
- Integration software to assist with edge matching and conflation.
- QA/QC software to assist with checking the framework data.

Processes and Policies – This includes processes and guidelines for making decisions between different data sources and for integrating data, for data sharing, public disclosure, etc. This document will also include processes and policies for maintaining WA-Trans.

Communication Activities

- Presented at WA-URISA on WA-Trans and partnership with USGS and US Bureau of Census,
- Presentation to WSDOT Transportation Data Office regarding WA-Trans and statewide LRS. The National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA)

recommends that Washington have a statewide LRS.

- Presentation to the Washington Traffic Records Committee. This committee has participants from many state agencies including WA State Patrol, WA Department of Health, WA Department of Licensing and WSDOT. This committee decided that WA-Trans is a necessary to meeting their strategic goals and will include funding for WA-Trans in federal grants they are seeking.
- Presentation to the WSDOT Planning section working on the update to the Washington Transportation Plan on how WA-Trans could assist them in the future.
- Display set up at the Central GIS User Group meeting in Wenatchee on WA-Trans.
- Attended GITA in Seattle and developed contact on transportation framework in British Columbia and Michigan.

June 7, 2004

This has been a very busy six weeks and it just seems to be getting busier! To keep up with the funding opportunities is taking most of my time. The first piece of news is related to that. I have asked for a full-time project management trainee that could assist with completing the architecture, process and policies document and run a pilot if we end up doing more than one at once. We seem to have two tracks going right now and I can't do both. One is grant writing and selling the project and the other is keeping us moving towards a pilot with deliverables moving forward so we are ready for a pilot when the funding is in place.

I attended the GITA conference in Seattle. It was a really well run conference and I saw a few of you there. At the conference I had the opportunity to meeting with John Auble of GDT (now owned by TeleAtlas). I discussed what we were doing with them and gave them some idea of why GDT won't work for us. They are very interested in working with us. However, until we have our requirements written out (another "to-do") we can't measure how they will or will not meet our needs. Additionally to do a real return on investment calculation we need to have done at least a pilot or two so we know what it would cost us to do it ourselves. At the least I let them know that we wanted to keep in touch and help each other out. On a related note I will be managing WSDOT's GDT contract as of the end of the summer.

I gave a presentation to the Washington Traffic Records Committee. It was very well received! The committee comprises State Agency participants from Department of Health, Department of Licensing, Assistant to the Court, Washington State Patrol and WSDOT as well as some others I'm sure I have forgotten. They agreed that WA-Trans was important to their mission regarding traffic safety reporting and linking different accident response and tracking systems together across the state. They are putting a strategy together that they will use to apply for Transportation funding from the Federal government. Part of that request will be for WA-Trans. I need to decide what is a reasonable amount to ask them for. Does anyone have ideas of how to do that? I will continue to attend their meetings.

I apply for, and we got, a grant from Microsoft for \$29,000! It is administered through B-First, a Microsoft partner. It can be spent on services, so I am looking at maybe getting started on building a translator. Burt Buser from B-First and Bob Gilbert from Microsoft will be at our meeting so we can discuss this with them. I need to put a specification and agreement together with them soon! There may be other opportunities here, if we find a relationship between things Microsoft is trying to promote and our project. However we need to make sure

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what we are doing does move WA-Trans forward and that we can work with what ever they give us.

We had a meeting with Oregon DOT people and various WSDOT reps from railroad, aviation and ferries to discuss and agree to the data model as it stands now. Jerry and Roland attended the meeting. We have some decisions to make and some minor changes to make so it will work for us in Washington, but as far as what we were doing with Oregon that is done.

I am in the process of applying for a USGS Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) request that we must match 100%. It is for \$75,000 to provide data for The National Map. We are going to ask for funding to prototype the translator and integrate data from Pierce and King Counties. The USGS has agreed to host that data with their other Puget Sound data at Menlo Park on The National Map (TNM). Pierce County, Puget Sound Regional Council, King County, WSDOT and TNM have agreed to partner in this request and provide resources for match. I have to have it done Thursday morning this week so that is what I am spending all my time on!

Because of the due date of the CAP the schedule for giving a presentation to the Geographic Information Technology subcommittee of the Information Services Board (ISB) has been changed from June to September.

Our next meeting is June 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Spokane at the Eastern Region Transportation Building on Mayfair. Video-conferencing will be available.

Tami's Status Report
Steering Committee Meeting

April 19, 2004

I have been working on completing funding requests, and selling the concept of WA-Trans in as many places as possible since we met last. There seems to be some real synergy resulting from these varied efforts.

I completed three funding requests. The first is for a Federal Earmark. There are several "versions" that must be completed because each Senator and House Member has their own "version" and keeping it brief is critical. I am also forwarding off scanned copies of the letters I receive with these requests. I am going to continue to do that as long as they will let me so keep 'em coming!

The second request is for state funding through the legislative process called "decision packages". WSDOT is in the process of deciding which will actually go to the legislature. Frequently things that don't go to the legislature still get funded if they get executive support. They were prioritized at a middle-management level (more of a what-is-in-it-for-me) sort of outcome and we didn't do really well. But all of them are now going to the top executives and will have another chance. I am also sending letters with those requests.

The third is the pooled research proposal. I got that finished and turned in last week and am in the process of making changes recommended by our Research Director. It is important that this request show value to multiple states so that may influence how it is done. I am going to bring these proposals to the meeting so you can see what I have been doing.

I met with the Transportation Data Office and members from a committee at the State trying to determine how to implement the NHTSA recommendations that I mentioned in the last status report. They are interested in WA-Trans to provide a statewide LRS. However, they are also interested in implementing a system using handheld devices for all law enforcement officers statewide to more correctly identify accident locations. They need a statewide base map and a common names file for this effort. Chris Madille, from the Washington State Patrol and I are going to be working together on a presentation for the group in early May.

I met with Elizabeth Robbins, the head of the Washington Transportation Plan, which is updated every 5 years and uses data from many locations to inform her about WA-Trans. This was a very productive meeting and an opportunity to show WSDOT another value of WA-Trans for the agency.

I am scheduled to give a presentation to the Geographic Information Technology subcommittee of the Information Services Board (ISB) in late May or early June. This group recommends policy to the ISB, which sets IT policy for all state agencies. If we are to find a method of funding WA-Trans without making every agency take some money out of their budget this group can figure out how to do it. The presentation will show the value of WA-Trans to critical applications state agencies are working on or considering. I would like other state agency steering committee members to try to attend and assist me so we can show a cross section of commitment.

I attended the recent WA URISA conference in Tukwila. What a great conference! I presented an update on WA-Trans along with Sam Bardelson and Wendy Hawley. Several partners and steering committee members also gave excellent presentations. I was pleased to note that in two presentations local governments mentioned partnership and/or participation in WA-Trans! That will help us interest other participants! Thanks!!

I am planning on attending the Central Washington GIS Users Group meeting this week in Wenatchee. I will be bringing my table top display and setting it up.

Our next meeting is June 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Shoreline at the NW Region Transportation Building on Dayton Avenue. Video-conferencing will be available. I also hope to provide lunch if you can bring some money. I will let you know in advance.

Tami's Status Report
Steering Committee Meeting

March 8, 2004

This has been an exceptionally busy month for me, mostly because of various funding requests I am involved in for WA-Trans. More about those later.

I attended an ESRI hosted Homeland Security and GIS Seminar that was very interesting. It was mostly directed to local governments and Linda Gerull from Pierce County was a presenter. It was good to find out how homeland security money is being distributed to local governments and to speak with ESRI grant people. I had lunch with them and we discussed the possibility of them providing a commitment to provide some assistance to the project. I identified the software development as a key area that we could use some assistance. I will be following up on that later with them.

I again met with the ODOT and University of Oregon people to work on the proposal for pooled research funding. The proposal is done with the exception of some tightening up of the numbers and schedule. I will be turning that in at the end of the next week. I will provide more information about it at the next meeting and bring copies for every one. I am meeting with representatives from Benton and Walla Walla Counties and cities within on March 9th in the Tri-Cities to begin discussing this pilot with them. Thanks to Joe Bowles for setting that up for me!

I have been very involved in the earmark process. The scope of the earmark request has changed. In order to include partners that have already invested a great deal and to work on meeting regional transportation planning business needs more effectively, instead of the earmark focusing just on WSDOT Northwest Region as a whole we are doing select counties, both in and out of the region. It is more closely aligned with the original Puget Sound pilot we discussed with Sound Transit and Puget Sound Regional Council. So the counties to be included are: Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish Counties. I am having to do a different version of the same request for each senator and each house member and the due dates are all different, so I have been kept VERY busy with that. I have also attached the three letters I have received to date to those requests. I anticipate they will be very helpful!

I am working on a funding proposal through the WSDOT process for information technology projects. It is slow and involved an agency prioritization process with many steps and lots of forms! I will also bring those to the next meeting for you to see. I plan to use the letters for this as well. It may really help get the project above other projects in this process!

One good thing that has happened is the WSDOT now has a "mandate" for WA-Trans. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) performed an audit on our traffic records process and made six recommendations. One of them is that we need a statewide GPS based LRS for all roads (not just state roads). There has been a committee set up to try to figure out how to meet these request and a savvy member recognized that WA-Trans was already trying to build this! So I am scheduled speak with them on March 10th.

We had a partner meeting March 2. It went well and I presented a lot of the material we have been working on. The only concerns were for the complexity and risk of the software we are trying to build, but there was general support for the concept. I hope to get more feedback as time goes on. It was well attended. Sam Bardelson gave a short presentation on the USGS Puget Sound implementation and Wendy Hawley gave an update on the MAF/TIGER Accuracy Improvement Project (MTAIP).

Our next meeting is April 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Olympia at the Transportation Building. Video-conferencing will be available. I also hope to provide lunch if you can bring some money. I will let you know in advance.